

REMARKS

After entry of the present amendment claims 1 through 3, 7 through 11, 13, and 14 will be pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 13, and 14 are amended. Claims 4, 5, 6, and 12 are cancelled. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 6, 7, 12, and 13.

Specification

The Applicant has amended the Abstract to render the Examiner's objection moot. The Applicant has also amended paragraphs [0019] and [0021] to render the Examiner's objections moot.

Claims

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,520,321 to Thurston et al. (the *Thurston Reference*). The Applicant has amended claim 1 to render these rejections moot. In particular, the Applicant has amended the independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 4, 5, and 6. Claim 6, allowed by the Examiner, depends upon claim 5 which depends upon claim 4. Claim 4 depends upon claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8, 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over the *Thurston reference* in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over the *Thurston reference* in view of AAPA, as applied to claim 8 and further in view of the United States Patent No. 4,621,671

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to Kane et al. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over the *Thurston reference* in view of AAPA, as applied to claim 8 and further in view of the United States Patent No. 5,141,040 to Curcuri. The Applicant has amended the independent claim 8 and 14 to render these rejections moot.

Alluding to the above, the Applicant has amended claim 8 to include the limitations as set forth in claim 12 allowed by the Examiner. In addition, the Applicant incorporated into claim 8 the limitations of claims 4 and 5 (originally presented and currently cancelled by the Applicant) to provide a proper support for the limitation of claim 12 (originally presented and currently cancelled by the Applicant) incorporated into claim 8.

The Applicant has also amended claim 14 to incorporate into claim 14 the limitations of claims 4 and 5 (originally presented and currently cancelled by the Applicant) to provide a proper support for the limitation of claim 12, allowed by the Examiner and currently cancelled by the Applicant and the limitation of claim 7 allowed by the Examiner.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 through 3, 7 through 11, 13, and 14 are placed in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above.

The Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are required,

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however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS



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Date

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed **Fee Amendment** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," Mailing Label No. **EV848163883US** and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment - Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **March 12, 2006**.



Tracy L. Smith

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